

9 FAM PART IV Appendix C, RUSSIA

(TL:VISA-304; 07-30-2001)

RECIPROCITY

(TL:VISA-304; 07-30-2001)

Class	Fee	No. Applications	Validity
A-1	NONE [A] [B]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
A-2	NONE [B]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
A-3 [1]	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
B-1	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
B-2	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
B-1/B-	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
C-1	\$150.00	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
C-1/D	\$150.00 [D]	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
C-2	NONE	ONE	3 MONTHS
C-3	NONE	ONE	3 MONTHS
D	\$150.00 [D]	MULTIPLE	24 MONTHS
E-1 [2]	NO TREATY	N/A	N/A
E-2 [2]	NO TREATY	N/A	N/A
F-1	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
F-2	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
G-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
G-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
G-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
G-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	12 MONTHS
G-5 [1]	NONE	ONE	12 MONTHS
H-1B	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
H-1C	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
H-2A	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
H-2B	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
H-3	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
H-4	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
I	\$450.00 [F]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
J-1 [4]	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
J-2 [4]	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
K-1	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-2	NONE	ONE	6 MONTHS
K-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
K-4	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
L-1	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
L-2	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
M-1	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
M-2	\$450.00 [C] [E]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
N-8	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
N-9	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
NATO 1-7	N/A	N/A	N/A
O-1	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
O-2	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
O-3	450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]

P-1	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
P-2	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
P-3	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
P-4	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS [3]
Q-1[6]	\$450.00	MULTIPLE	15 MONTHS [3]
R-1	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
R-2	\$450.00 [C]	MULTIPLE	36 MONTHS
S-5 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-6 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
S-7 [7]	NONE	ONE	1 MONTH
TD [5]	N/A	N/A	N/A
V-1	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS
V-2	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]
V-3	NONE	MULTIPLE	120 MONTHS [8]

[A] Diplomatic Couriers No Fee Multiple 12 Months

[B] Diplomatic Personnel No Fee Multiple 12 Months
on TDY.

[C] Tiered Fee Schedule: \$450.00 Multiple 36 Months
 \$150.00 Multiple 12 Months
 \$40.00 Two 6 Months
 \$20.00 One 6 Months

[C-1] Transit Visa \$150.00 Multiple 12 Months
 \$40.00 Two 6 Months
 \$20.00 One 6 Months

[D] C1/D & D (Air crews only): No reciprocity fee is charged for air crews. However, these applicants must pay the application (MRV) fee. Sea crews must pay both the reciprocity and MRV Fees.

[E] Or duration of Form IAP-66 or Form I-20, whichever is shorter.

[F] Journalists on TDY. Multiple entry visas may only be issued to journalists on long-term assignment. \$20.00 one 3 months

SPECIAL CLEARANCE AND ISSUANCE PROCEDURES

General

Submission of Visa Applications and Photographs when Telegraphic Clearance not Required

(TL:VISA-291; 06-08-2001)

Applications for nonimmigrant visas may be processed without Departmental clearance in most cases, provided:

(1) The applicant is not subject to one of the telegraphic name check (VISAS EAGLE OR VISAS HORSE) procedures listed below; and

(1) The original visa application (Form OF-156), along with a firmly affixed recent photograph and accompanying documentation, is sent directly and expeditiously to

(3) The Northeast Regional Computer Support Center

(4) 1203 Nealis Avenue, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey 07703, Attention: Dept. IIS. A copy of Form OF-156 should be retained at post. The submission of an original Form OF-156 with documentation and photographs in lieu of VISAS EAGLE and VISAS EAGLE name check is known as the NON-FLYING EAGLE procedure.

When Telegraphic Clearance Required

(TL:VISA-288; 05-30-2001)

In cases that require a Security Advisory Opinion (see below) a **copy** of Form OF-156, with a recent, original photograph firmly affixed, (two photographs in the case of diplomatic couriers) must also be submitted to the Northeast Regional Computer Support Center at the address provided above. Exceptions to this requirement are:

(1) No application or photograph need be submitted in cases involving chiefs and deputy chiefs of state, heads of government, chiefs of mission, their immediate families and accompanying crew members ("A", "G" and C-3 visa applicants); and

(2) A photograph is not necessary if one has been submitted within the previous three years.

Nonofficial Travel

"VISAS EAGLE" Name Check Requests

(TL:VISA-165; 05-02-1997)

A "VISAS EAGLE" telegram must be submitted for "K" nonimmigrant visa applicants, immigrant visa applicants, and applicants for refugee status who are ages 18-65. Cases may be processed to conclusion 15 working days after submission of the VISAS EAGLE telegram, unless otherwise advised by the Department.

Visa Applications From Russian Citizens Who Are Ethnic Chechen

(TL:VISA-287; 05-30-2001)

There are no special processing requirements for ethnic Chechens, but in the instances noted below or when the officer is in doubt about an ethnic Chechen applicant who is otherwise eligible, an SAO is required.

Some Russian citizens who are ethnic Chechens have applied for visas to the U.S. claiming to be officials of their government. National passports of Ichkeria issued by Chechen authorities are not considered to be issued by competent authorities as required by INA section 101(a)(30). Such documents do not meet the definition of passport, thus may not be visaed. Visas issued to ethnic Chechens and other Russian citizens are to be placed in their Russian passports.

The consular officer will need to consider the applicability of INA 212(a)(3)(B) and (3)(C), as well, on a case-by-case basis. For example, if the consular officer believes the visa applicant's purpose of travel will be to conduct fundraising, as defined by INA 212(a)(3)(B)(iii)(IV), to support a terrorist activity or a terrorist organization, the post must submit an SAO. (Note: Bear in mind that some organizations that have been known to commit terrorist acts, such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA), are not on the Secretary's designated list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO). Consequently, even if an organization is not an FTO, the consular officer should determine whether the visa applicant's purpose of travel relates to terrorism as defined in the INA.)

To make a finding of ineligibility under INA 212(a)(3)(c), the Foreign Policy Provision, the post would need to provide sufficient detail about the applicant and his/her political agenda during the proposed visit in order for the Department to make a thorough evaluation of the foreign policy considerations involved.

Official Travel

“VISAS HORSE” Name Check Requests

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

A “VISAS HORSE” telegram must be submitted immediately following the issuance of a “A”, C-3, or “G” visa.

“VISAS BEAR” Name Check Requests

(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)

The cases of official and diplomatic visa applicants who otherwise require security advisory opinions (Dpt-00 class entries; possible ineligibility under INA 212(A)(3), etc.) must be submitted by means of a “VISAS BEAR” telegram unless the “VISAS PEGASUS” procedure applies.

“VISAS PEGASUS” Name Check Requests

(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)

Applicants from Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) who are Dpt-00 CLASS entries and who are coming solely to attend pre-ministerial, ministerial, pre-summit, and White House meetings may be issued visas on a post-check basis, provided that a “VISAS PEGASUS” telegram is sent immediately to the Department.

Port of Entry and/or Exit Restrictions for “A”, “C-3” and “G” Visa Holders- Designated Ports of Entry and Exit

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

Russian bearers of “A”, “C-3”, and “G” visas may enter and exit the United States through one of the designated ports listed below:

- (1) Anchorage, AK.
- (2) Baltimore, MD.
- (3) Boston, MA.
- (4) Chicago, IL.
- (5) Houston, TX.
- (6) Los Angeles, CA.
- (7) Miami, FL.
- (8) All ports of entry in New York
- (9) San Francisco, CA.
- (10) Seattle, WA.
- (11) Washington, D.C.

Annotation of Visas

(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)

Consular officers must annotate “A”, “G”, and “C-3” visas issued to Russian nationals as follows:

“ENTRY and/or EXIT LIMITED TO POE’S IN BAL, NY, WASHDC, BOS, SF, HOUS, MIA, LA, SEA, ANCH, CHI, (NAME OF DESIGNATED PORT(S)).”

The designated port(s) of entry and/or exit should be indicated in the "VISAS HORSE" or "VISAS PEGASUS" telegram.

DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

Civil documents, except as noted below, are available in the Russian Federation. Certified copies of available documents may be exported. The person to whom a civil record pertains may obtain a certified copy of the record from the local office of the Bureau of Acts of Civil Status (ZAGS). Documents which have been certified by ZAGS or a local notary office can be affixed with an apostille by the Ministry of Justice or other selected offices empowered to do so. The apostille is accepted in all countries that are parties to the Hague Convention on the Abolition of Legalization of Documents. Documents that bear an apostille need not be authenticated by an U.S. consular officer for use in the United States.

In the United States, Russian documents can be requested through the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, or the Russian Consulates General in San Francisco, New York, or Seattle. The process often takes several months.

Some civil records were destroyed during World War II. Local authorities generally will issue a certificate to that effect, although again, the process may take several months. A replacement statement of identity is also available from local authorities when the birth certificate is unavailable.

The Embassy in Moscow and the Consulates General in St. Petersburg, Vladivostok and Yekaterinburg, cannot assist in obtaining civil documents or verifying the accuracy of civil records in the Russian Federation.

Police and Prison Records

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

Generally available. A police certificate attesting to the existence or absence of a prior criminal record may generally be obtained from the local militia precinct, or from the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs having jurisdiction over the individual's place of officially registered residence. The length of time to obtain police certificates can vary, but is usually less than one month. However, certain local militia officials will refuse to issue such certificates for no apparent reason. Russian officials may require a letter from the Embassy or Consulate requesting the document. Court records are generally available upon a request from the individual. Prison records are generally not available.

Military Records

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

Available. Individuals who have served in the military are issued a military service document (voyenniy билет) which contains information on the length of service and circumstances of discharge. Those who have served in the military may also have this information reflected in their Russian internal passports.

Birth, Marriage, Divorce and Death Certificates

(TL:VISA-165; 05-02-1997)

Available. Certified copies of these documents may be obtained by applying to the Bureau of Acts of Civil Status (ZAGS) of the locality having custody of the records.

Internal Residence Documents

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

There are four types of documents with which a person may reside in the Russian Federation:

- (1) Internal passport;
- (2) Temporary certification in lieu of an internal passport;
- (3) Foreigner's residence permit; and
- (4) Residence permit for stateless persons.

The internal passport is issued to all citizens over the age of sixteen by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The document contains information on the bearer's civil status, lists bearer's children, and contains a residence registration stamp (propiska). These documents are obtained from the bearer's local militia precinct.

Russian Travel Documents

(TL:VISA-178; 08-17-1998)

Available. The Russian Federation (and many of the other former republics of the Soviet Union) continues to issue foreign travel passports which are virtually indistinguishable in design from the old-style Soviet passports. These 'regular' passports will be valid until the stated expiration date, or some future announcement of a complete changeover.

The Russian Federation began issuing “Russian Federation” official and diplomatic passports on September 16, 1996. The old-style Soviet official and diplomatic passports are no longer valid.

With implementation of the new exit and/or entry law in 1993, citizens are no longer required to obtain exit permission from the Office of Visas and Registration (OVIR) before traveling abroad. Citizens who are emigrating permanently must obtain a passport endorsed for permanent emigration from OVIR.

Under the present regulations, OVIR has sole authority to issue regular foreign travel passports, although the Foreign Ministry has been authorized to continue issuance of such passports on an interim basis. Passports are not routinely issued to children under the age of sixteen. They are usually included in the passport of a parent or other adult with whom they are traveling. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sole authority to issue diplomatic and official passports.

VISA ISSUING POSTS

(TL:VISA-165; 05-02-1997)

Moscow (E) All Categories
Address: PSC-77
APO AE 09721-5430

St. Petersburg (CG) NIV Only (except K visas)
Address: Box L
APO AE 09723-5440

Vladivostok (CG) NIV Only (except K visas)
Address: APO AE 09721-5880

Yekaterinburg NIV Only (except K visas)

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS SERVICED

(TL:VISA-232; 01-29-2001)

MOSCOW: IV All republics of the former Soviet Union, except Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Belarus and Ukraine are serviced by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland; Moldova is serviced by the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania; Estonia is serviced by the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, Finland; and Latvia and Lithuania are serviced by the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland.

NIV: Those parts of the Russian Federation not contained within the consular districts of St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg or Vladivostok.

ST. PETERSBURG: NIV: Only regions, autonomous republics, and cities of: Arkhangel'sk (except for Kanin Peninsula and Kolguyev Island) Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, St. Petersburg and Karelskaya Autonomous Region.

VLADIVOSTOK: NIV: Only regions, autonomous republics, and cities of Amur, Kamchatka, Khabarovsk, Magadan, Primorskiy, Sakhalin, and Sakha (Yakutia).

YEKATERINBURG: NIV: The Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Orenburg, Kurgan, Tyumen and Perm Oblasts. The Republics of Bashkortostan and Udmurtia as well as the autonomous okrugs of Khanty-Mansisk, Yamal-Nenetsk and Komipermiski.